



BRIEFING: March 11, 2014 BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM #5

TO: Chairman Richard and Board Members

FROM: Diana Gomez, Central Valley Regional Director
Mark A. McLoughlin, Director of Environmental Services

DATE: March 11, 2014

RE: Update on the Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement: Fresno to Bakersfield

Background

At its November 2013 meeting, this Board identified a Preferred Alternative to be included in the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (FEIR/EIS) for the Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section. This item is to update the Board on staff actions regarding the FEIR/EIS since November and detail next steps in the process.

Discussion

After the Board's identification of a Preferred Alternative, in December 2013, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) concurred that the Preferred Alternative is the Preliminary Least Environmental Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) agreed. Based on the LEDPA concurrence, staff has continued its work to prepare the Final EIR/EIS for publication, in cooperation with the Federal Railroad Administration.

Over the coming months, the FEIR/EIS will be released for public review and staff will request that a special Board meeting be schedule for the Board to consider whether to certify the Fresno to Bakersfield Final EIR/EIS for compliance with CEQA and to consider whether to approve the project.

Recommendations

This item is informational only; staff does not recommend any Board action at this time.

Attachments

– None